Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,[3]

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner since assuming office in January 2001, and commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its fifty-second session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[4] and notes that the Convention and its 1967 Protocol[5] have continuously served as the cornerstone of the international refugee protection regime, and welcomes in this context the convening of a ministerial meeting of States parties as an expression of their collective commitment to full and effective implementation of the Convention and Protocol and the values they embody;

3. *Reaffirms* that the 1951 Convention[4] and its 1967 Protocol[5] remain the foundation of the international refugee regime and recognizes the importance of their full application by States parties, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-one States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and States to strengthen their efforts to promote broader accession to those instruments and their full implementation, and underlines in particular the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement;

4. *Notes* that fifty-three States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[6] and that twenty-four States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[7] and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his activities on behalf of stateless persons;

5. *Welcomes* the process of Global Consultations on International Protection launched by the Office of the High Commissioner and acknowledges their importance as a forum for open discussion on complex legal and operational protection issues;

6. *Reiterates* that international protection is a dynamic and action-oriented function, carried out in cooperation with States and other partners, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the admission, reception and treatment of refugees and to ensure durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions;

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[3] Resolution 428 (V).
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[5] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[6] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.
[7] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

8. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by States, in particular by developing countries as well as by countries with economies in transition that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations, especially in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition;

9. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, recalls that these solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, reaffirming that voluntary repatriation remains the preferred solution, accompanied by the necessary rehabilitation measures and supported by development assistance from the international community to ensure sustainable reintegration;

10. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

11. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential to the High Commissioner to effectively discharge his mandated functions on an equitable basis, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to the Global Appeal issued by his Office for requirements under its annual programme budget;

12. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, with this sustained support, to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions concerning refugees and other persons of concern,[8] in close cooperation with its relevant partners;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and to include in his report the results of the Global Consultations on International Protection.

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[8] See www.unhcr.ch (Executive Committee — GA resolutions).